

Mukdahan



10 Things to do

Ho Kaeo Mukdahan



Wat Roi Phra Phutthabat Phu Manorom



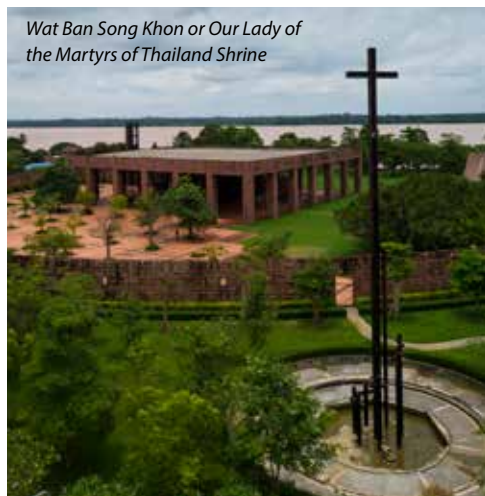
Indochina Market



Kaeng Kabao



Wat Ban Song Khon or Our Lady of the Martyrs of Thailand Shrine



The Second Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge (Mukdahan-Savannakhet)



Phu Pha Thoep National Park



Phu Sa Dok Bua National Park



Phu Mu (Phu Sa Dok Bua National Park)



Ban Phu Cultural Village





Wat Roi Phra Phutthabat Phu Manorom

CONTENTS

HOW TO GET THERE	8
ATTRACTIONS	10
<i>Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan</i>	10
<i>Amphoe Wan Yai</i>	21
<i>Amphoe Dong Luang</i>	24
<i>Amphoe Khamcha-i</i>	26
<i>Amphoe Nong Sung</i>	27
<i>Amphoe Nikhom Kham Soi</i>	30
<i>Amphoe Don Tan</i>	33
MAJOR EVENTS	36
LOCAL PRODUCTS	39
LOCAL FOODS	40
SUGGESTED ITINERARY	40
MAPS	42
USEFUL CALLS	46
TOURIST INFORMATION CENTERS	47



Phu Pha Thoep National Park

Mukdahan



Mukdahan City

Thai Term Glossary

Amphoe	: District
Ban	: Village
Hat	: Beach
Khuean	: Dam
Maenam	: River
Mueang	: Town or City
Phrathat	: Pagoda, Stupa
Prang	: Corn-shaped tower or sanctuary
Prasat	: Castle
SAO	: Subdistrict Administrative Organization
Soi	: Alley
Song Thaeo	: Pick-up trucks but with a roof over the back
Talat	: Market

Tambon	: Subdistrict
Tham	: Cave
Tuk-Tuks	: Three-wheeled motorized taxis
Ubosot or Bot	: Ordination hall in a temple
Wihan	: Image hall in a temple
Wat	: Temple

Note: English spelling here given tries to approximate Thai Pronunciation. Posted signs may be spelled differently. When seeking help for direction, point to the Thai spelling given after each place name.

Mukdahan is the 73rd province of Thailand. Its history dates from the late Ayutthaya period, over 200 years ago. At first, on the left side of the Mekong River, there was a large community

called Ban Luang Phon Sin located by Phrathat Ing Hang, presently in Savannakhet Province of Lao PDR. The community was ruled by Chao Chan Suriyawong. His son was Chao Kinnari. He later built a new town at the mouth of Huai Muk on the right bank of the Mekong River in 1767. The town was completed in 1770 and named “Mukdahan” (moonstone or pearl) according to a propitious sign occurring to him while the town was under construction. That is why the locals call the town “Mueang Muk”.

During the reign of King Taksin the Great, Chao Kinnari was promoted as Phraya Chanthon Si Surat Upparacha Manthaturat to be the first ruler of Mukdahan in 1778. At first, Mukdahan was part of ‘Monthon Udon’ or Udon Circle. In 1907, the Circle was dissolved to become a province and Mukdahan was then an Amphoe of Nakhon Phanom province. It was promoted as Mukdahan province in 1982 as the country’s 73rd province and the 17th province of Isan.

Actually, Mukdahan is a significant gateway to Indochinese countries. The local people of Mukdahan actually have had a long relationship with the people in Savannakhet province of Lao PDR. although they are apart by the 70 kilometres long Mekong River. Mukdahan is home to 8 ethnic minorities; namely, Thai Isan, Phu Thai, Thai Kha, Kraso, Thai Kaloeng, Thai Yo, Thai Saek, and Thai Kula. It has abundant natural beauty.

Mukdahan covers a total area of 4,339.83 square kilometres. It can be divided into 7 districts; namely, Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan, Amphoe Wan Yai, Amphoe Dong Luang, Amphoe Khamcha-i, Amphoe Nong Sung, Amphoe Nikhom Kham Soi and Amphoe Don Tan.

Distances from Mukdahan to Nearby Provinces

Amnat Charoen	88	kilometres
Kalasin	166	kilometres
Nakhon Phanom	104	kilometres
Roi Et	162	kilometres
Sakon Nakhon	119	kilometres
Yasothon	111	kilometres

Distances from Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan to other districts

Amphoe Wan Yai	33	kilometres
Amphoe Dong Luang	56	kilometres
Amphoe Khamcha-i	37	kilometres
Amphoe Nong Sung	52	kilometres
Amphoe Nikhom Kham Soi	28	kilometres
Amphoe Don Tan	35	kilometres

HOW TO GET THERE

By Car: From Bangkok take Highway NO. 1 (Pahonyothin Road) and get into Highway No. 2 (Mittraphap Road) at Saraburi, drive through Nakhon Ratchasima, until reach Amphoe Ban Phai of Khon Kaen. Continue on Highway No. 23 through Mahasarakham, passing Amphoe Phon Thong of Roi Et and take Highway NO. 212 to Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan. The total distance is around 642 kilometres.

By Bus: From the Northern Bus Terminal Chatuchak (Kamphaeng Phet II Road) in Bangkok. There are many bus to Mukdahan everyday; namely,

- *The Transport Co., Ltd.* Tel. 1490, 0 2936 2852-66. Mukdahan Branch Tel. 0 4261 1478 or www.transport.co.th

- *Cherdchai Tour Co., Ltd.* Tel. 0 2936 0253, 0 2936 0611 or www.cherdchaitour.com



Mukdahan Bus Terminal

- *Nakhon Chai Air Co., Ltd.* Tel. 1624 or www.nca.co.th
- *Sombat Tour Co., Ltd.* Tel. 1215, 0 2030 4999, 0 4263 0692 or www.sombattour.com
- *Sahapun Roi Et Tour Co., Ltd.* Tel. 0 2936 3690, 0 2936 0864
- *Thai Sanguan Co., Ltd.* Tel. 0 2966 0582

For more information contact Mukdahan Bus Terminal Tel. 0 4261 1207, located 33-142 Chayangkul Road, Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan.

By Train: A train service is available from the Bangkok Railway Station (Hua Lamphong) to Ubon Ratchathani Railway Station, where tourist can catch routine bus to Mukdahan, 167 kilometres away. For more information, Tel. 1690, 0 2220 4334, 0 2220 4261 Ubon Ratchathani Railway Station Tel. 0 4532 1004 or www.railway.co.th.

By Airplane: There are two airlines operating flights from Donmueang International Airport in Bangkok to Nakhon Phanom Airport, as follows:

- *Nok Air* Tel. 1318, 0 2900 9955 or www.nokair.com
- *Thai Air Asia* Tel. 0 2515 9999, 0 4258 7212 or www.airasia.com

Then take a routine bus to Mukdahan, 107 kilometres away.

Local Transportation

At the Mukdahan Bus Terminal, Song Thaeos and motor tricycles, plying across the town, are available. Travelling from the Mukdahan Bus Terminal to each district can be done by taking a bus, passenger van, or Song Thaeo.



Wat Si Mongkhon Tai

Transportation to Nearby Provinces

From the Mukdahan Bus Terminal, there are air-conditioned buses and passenger vans heading to nearby provinces; such as, Nakhon Phanom, Sakon Nakhon, Yasothon, Maha Sarakham, Khon Kaen, Nakhon Ratchasima, etc.

ATTRACTIONS

Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan Chaopho Chaofa Mung Mueang Shrine

(ศาลเจ้าพ่อเจ้าฟ้ามุงเมือง)

The shrine, which also houses the city pillar, is located on Song Nang Sathit Road in the

Amphoe Mueang Municipality. Without any solid evidence about its history, it is assumed that the shrine might have been built in the same period as the city itself. The original wooden shrine was renovated and replaced by a concrete one. For the people of Mukdahan, the shrine is considered as a sacred place of the spirit that protects the city.

Chaomae Song Nang Phi Nong Shrine

(ศาลเจ้าแม่สองนางพี่น้อง)

Situated on Samran Chai Khong Road, next to the Mukdahan Immigration Bureau, the shrine was originally built of wood and rebuilt later with concrete. Legend says that two Laotian princesses boarded a boat to Mukdahan but an accident in the river cost their lives; hence, a shrine was built by a seven-topped sugar palm tree in the same time that the Mukdahan city was constructed by Chao Kinnari.

The people of Mukdahan consider this shrine another sacred place. Both the Chaomae Song Nang Phi Nong and Chaopho Chaofa Mung Mueang Shrines are twin sacred icons of the city. Every year, on the full moon day of the sixth lunar month, around May, a celebration for both shrines will be held.

Wat Si Mongkhon Tai *(วัดศรีมงคลใต้)*

The temple is located on Samran Chai Khong Road by the Mekong River. Its main ordination hall or Ubosot houses a concrete Buddha image, which is considered a sacred item of Mukdahan. The Buddha image is 2.2 metres wide and 2 metres high.

History about this ancient Buddha image remains doubtful; however, legend says that two images were found in 1767 when Chao Kinnari was constructing Mukdahan city by the



Indochina Market

seven-topped sugar palm tree. The large image was built from concrete while the smaller one, found underneath a Pho or Bodhi tree, was made from steel. A temple was built to house both Buddha images. One day, the smaller Buddha image disappeared and was found buried under the Pho tree where it had been found, with only the top of the statue emerging above the ground. Chao Kinnari had an altar built there and named the smaller Buddha image "Phra Lup Lek" and the larger Buddha image "Phrachao Ong Luang". Both have become sacred Buddha images for Mukdahan since then.

Indochina Market (ตลาดอินโดจีน)

is situated on Samran Chai Khong Road, in Tambon Si Bun Rueang. The Market stretches along the Mekong River for 1 kilometre,

starting from Wat Si Mongkhon Tai and passing Wat Yot Kaeo Si Wichai. Different types of domestic and imported merchandise (from Lao PDR., Vietnam, and China) are sold at this huge market. Most of the products are clothes, food, electrical appliances, consumer goods, souvenirs, as well as OTOP products of Mukdahan. The Indochina Market is open daily from 8.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m.

Also, there is a viewpoint of the Mekong River, from which the second Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge, as well as houses on the side of Savannakhet Province can be clearly seen. On the End of Buddhist Lent Day, traditional long-boat races between Mukdahan and Savannakhet Province are annually arranged on the Mekong River, in front of the Indochina Market. This festival draws a lot of attention from both Thais and Laotians.



Wat Si Bun Rueang - Ban Tai

Wat Si Bun Rueang - Ban Tai (วัดศรีบุญเรือง-บ้านไต้)

The temple is situated on Samran Chai Khong Road. The ordination hall houses a bronze Buddha image called Phra Phutthasing Song, which is 1 metre wide and 1.2 metres high.

When Mukdahan was completed, Chao Kinnari took this Buddha image from Vientiane and placed at Wat Si Mongkhon Tai. Later, a new temple was built at Ban Si Bun Rueang and the image was moved to be placed here until now. During the Songkran Festival of each year, the people of Mukdahan always carry the Buddha image on a float around the town for people to bathe.

Ho Kaeo Mukdahan (หอแก้วมุกดาหารเฉลิมพระเกียรติกาญจนาภิเษก).

located on Highway No. 2034 (Mukdahan –Don Tan), in Tambon Si Bun Rueang, was completed in 1996. The history of the former Mueang Mukdahan, the precious antique objects of the Kingdom, as well as the different clothing of the 8 tribes of the Thai Mukdahan people are gathered and exhibited in this 65.5-metre-high tower. The 7th floor, the top floor of Ho Kaeo Mukdahan, enshrines the Nawa Ming Mongkhon Mukdahan Buddha statue and Buddha images of the seven days. The 6th floor is a viewpoint that offers panoramic views of Mueang Mukdahan, the Mekong River,





Talat Ratri or Night Market

Savannakhet Province of Lao PDR., as well as the second Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge.

Ho Kaeo Mukdahan is open every day from 8.30 a.m.–5.30 p.m. The entrance fee is 50 Baht. For more information, contact Tel. 0 4263 3211.

Vietnamese Communities 5-Junction (ห้าแยกเวียดนาม).

is located in Mukdahan Municipality, at the intersection between Thaiyanon Road, Phitak Santirat Road, and Soi Khang Mun Nithi. This is a community of Vietnamese people, who emigrated from their country because of war and immigrated to Thailand. Here is the place where visitors can experience the Vietnamese way of life.

Breakfast and traditional food in the Vietnamese style; namely, Khao Tom Sen or Khao Piak Sen (Vietnamese rice noodle soup), Paeng Chi or Baguette (Vietnamese sandwich), Bahn Coun (Vietnamese steamed rice rolls), Lueat Plaeng or Tiet canh (raw blood pudding), Vietnamese white pork sausage, scalded pig's intestine, Khanom Niao (chewy tapioca dumplings), Vietnamese rice cake filled with pork (Banh Chung), yellow sticky rice, etc., are also awaiting visitors to enjoy. Most restaurants serving Vietnamese-style food are open between 6.00 a.m.-2.00 p.m.

Talat Ratri or Night Market (ตลาดราตรี), is located on Song Nang Sathit Road, in front of the Mukdahan City Hall. This is where a wide



Phrachao Yai Kaeo Mukda Sitirairat

range of food; such as, local food, Isan food, Vietnamese food, as well as different types of merchandise, are available. This night market is open from 4.00 p.m.-9.00 p.m. Visitors can also visit and worship the sacred spirits of the Mukdahan City Pillar Shrine, which is situated near the Night Market.

Wat Roi Phra Phutthabat Phu Manorom

(วัดรอยพระพุทธบาทภูมโนรมย์)

is situated on Phu Manorom, a small mountain located in Tambon Na Si Nuan in the southern part of Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan. Within the temple's compound, there are several interesting things that are waiting to be visited and worshipped.

These are as follows:

Phrachao Yai Kaeo Mukda Sitirairat is enshrined on top of the mountain, where the temple is situated. This giant Buddha statue, which can be seen from a distance, with a lap width of 39.99 metres and a height of 59.99 metres is in the posture of subduing Mara. The total height from the base to the top is 84 metres. Phrachao Yai Kaeo Mukda Sitirairat was built on the occasion of King Rama IX's 84th birthday anniversary, 5 December, 2011.

Phrathat Phu Manorom has an octagonal base. This Phrathat was built in the tapering shape from its middle part to its top, which is divided into 3 parts according to the Dharma puzzle, which defines that the bottom part of the



Phaya Si Mukda Maha Muni Nilapala Nakkharat

tapering shape is hell; the middle is the human world; the top is heaven.

Replica of the Buddha's footprint, made of sandstone, has its width of 80 centimetres and length of 180 centimetres.

Phra Angkhan Phen, the small and gold Buddha statue in the posture of subduing Mara, was made at the same time as the replica of the Buddha's footprint was created. To meet the builder's belief of having all 3 elements in a temple, Phathat (Chedi), Buddha statue, and Buddha's footprint were built.

A record of the temple's construction is attached at the back of Phra Angkhan Phen.

Phaya Si Mukda Maha Muni Nilapala Nakkharat, the giant Naga statue, can be found slithering across the stony area on the left side of the path up to Phrachao Yai Kao Mukda Sitirairat and magnificently raising its head to face the Mekong River below. It was built to be a guardian of Phrachao Yai Kao Mukda Sitirairat and to be revered by devotees. This majestic and greenish-blue-coloured Naga statue is 122 metres long, with a 1.5 metres diameter, and is 20 metres high.

To get there: From the centre of Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan, take Highway No. 2034 (Mukdahan-Don Tan) until passing Ho Kao Mukdahan and seeing a T-junction. Then, turn right into Highway No. 238 and go straight until

reaching the intersection. After that, turn left to Phu Manorom. The total distance from Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan is 7 kilometres.

Due to the narrow and steep road, big busses cannot drive uphill. At the foot of the mountain, there are parking areas and a Song Thaeo service to the temple, provided all day for visitors.

***The Second Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge
(Mukdahan-Savannakhet) (สะพานมิตรภาพ
ไทย-ลาว แห่งที่ 2)***

is located on Chayangkun Road (Highway No. 212) in Ban Song Pueai, Tambon Bang Sai Yai,

which is 7 kilometres to the north of Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan. It is a part of the East West Economic Corridor (EWEC) route, which starts from Myanmar, passes Thailand and Lao PDR., and ends in Vietnam. The construction of the Bridge was begun in January 2003 and had its official grand opening ceremony on 20 December, 2006. The 2-traffic-lane bridge with a length of 1,600 metres and width of 12 metres crosses the Mekong River and leads to Ban Nakae, Muang Kaysone Phomvihane, which is 5 kilometres to the north of Savannakhet Province of Lao PDR.



The Second Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge (Mukdahan-Savannakhet)



Viewpoint at the Second Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge

Thailand-Lao PDR. Border Checkpoint (Mukdahan-Savannakhet) (จุดผ่านแดนถาวร

ไทย—ลาว (มุกดาหาร—สะหวันนะเขต))

From Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan, there are 2 border checkpoints for crossing to Muang Kaysone Phomvihane, Savannakhet Province, Lao PDR.

1. The Second Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge Border Checkpoint is open every day, including public holidays, from 6.00 a.m.-10.00 p.m. For more information, contact Tel. 0 4261 1410.

At present, The Transport Co., Ltd. offers passengers an international bus route, Mukdahan-Savannakhet. This 17-kilometre-long bus route starts from the Mukdahan Bus Terminal, and

then crosses the Second Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge to Savannakhet Province of Lao PDR. (To be able to buy a bus ticket, passengers are required to present their own passports or a temporary border pass to the officer at the ticket counter.) The bus leaves every hour, starting from 6.30 a.m.-7.00 p.m. For more information, contact Tel. 1490, or 0 4261 1478, or contact the Mukdahan Bus Terminal at Tel. 0 4261 1207.

2. The Mukdahan Municipality Pier Checkpoint is located at the intersection of Song Nang Sathit Road and Samran Chai Khong Road, near the Chaomae Song Nang Phi Nong Shrine. It is open everyday, including public holidays, from

8.00 a.m.-6.00 p.m. The ferry service is available from 9.30 a.m.-4.30 p.m. The ferry timetable can be checked at the ticket counter. For more information, contact Tel. 0 4267 4274.

Regulations to Visit Lao PDR.

Mukdahan has a border checkpoint that allows visitors to go to Muang Kaysone Phomvihane, Savannakhet Province, Lao PDR. The border crossing regulations are as follows:

A foreigner will require a passport and Laotian visa, issued by the Embassy of Lao PDR. in Bangkok or Khon Kaen. A visa on arrival is available at the Immigration Bureau of Savannakhet with a 30 USD fee.

A ferry service costs 50 Baht. An entry fee to Laotian soil is 50 Baht each for weekdays and 100 Baht each for weekends. For more information, call the Mukdahan Immigration Bureau at Tel. 0 4261 1410, 0 4267 4274.

Ong Pu Phaya Nak Shrine and Viewpoint at the Second Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge (ศาลองค์ปู่พญานาค และ จุดชมวิวสะพานมิตรภาพไทย-ลาว แห่งที่ 2)

is a viewpoint offering a beautiful landscape. The Ong Pu Phaya Nak Shrine is the place where visitors can revere holy objects and spirits. The pocket park with its garden trees provides shade to the Shrine and viewpoint. Restaurants, parking area, as well as restrooms are also available there.

Phu Pha Thoep National Park (อุทยานแห่งชาติภูผาเทิบ)

Cover a total area of 48.4 square kilometres in Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan and Amphoe Don Tan. The park's geography features undulating



Ong Pu Phaya Nak Shrine

sandstone mountains that form the edge of the Phu Phan Range. There are many mountains at an elevation between 170-420 metres above sea level; namely, Phu Mak Yang, Phu Mano, Phu Prong, Phu Rang, Phu Chom Nang, Phu Mak Mi, Phu Pha Thoep, Phu Nang Hong, Phu Tham Phra, Phu Lak Se, with Phu Chom Si being the highest peak.

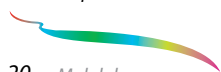
The deciduous dipterocarp forest and mixed deciduous forest cover most part of the area, which is also the watershed of many streams; namely, Huai Ta Lueak, Huai Sing, Huai Ruea, Huai Male, Huai Chang Chon, etc. The mountain slopes are blanketed with bamboo forest. There are numerous high cliffs and rock terraces. Its attractions include:

Hin Thoep Rocks (กลุ่มหินเทิบ) The formations of superimposed rocks called Hin Thoep have been eroded by rain, water, wind and sun for 120 - 95 million years. Today, these rocks appear in different forms such as a jet plane, flying saucer, Chinese pavilion, crown, crocodile and conch. Each layer of the rocks has different durability depending on the different contents of the sandstone. The upper brown layer is more durable with lots of silica and small stones. The lower layer has a paler colour with high content of carbonate, making it less durable.

Lan Mutchalin (ลานมูจลินท์) Next to the group of Hin Thoep is a vast rock plateau among the embrace of dwarf deciduous dipterocarp forest featuring bushes, with its uniqueness being the community of tiny plants such as Soi Suwanna, Yat Nam Khang, Nao Duean Ha, Dao Ruam Duang and Dusita. These tiny plants that blanket the whole rock terrace, will be in full bloom between October to December of each year. From the mid of the terrace, scenery of the Mekong River can be seen.



Hin Thoep Rocks - Phu Pha Thoep National Park



Namtok Wang Duan Ha (น้ำตกวังเดือนห้า) The small waterfall originates from many streams that run through Lan Mutchalin. Seepage from this waterfall plays a significant role in nourishing wildlife and plants in the park. The scenic landscape of the waterfall, comprising rock valley and boulders, always fascinates tourists.

Pha Ut (ผาอุท) This cliff has a rock that looks like a camel – Ut in Thai. Pha Ut is a scenic viewpoint that allows visitors to see Phu Tham Phra, Pha Phak Wan and Pha Khi Mu. Below this cliff is the vast valley blanketed with lush forest.

Phu Tham Phra (ภูถ้ำพระ) The cave in this mountain houses wooden Buddha images. Legend says that this area was once a settlement of the Khmer people. Before escaping from natural disaster, the villagers kept lots of Buddha images made from silver, alloy, gold, jade, sacred plants, and wood in the cave. Now only the wooden Buddha images remain. Nearby is a beautiful waterfall called Namtok Phu Tham Phra.

Pha Manao (ผามะนาว) The towering cliff has a waterfall that plunges below to feed the forest and wildlife. From the cliff top, tourists can witness a nice panoramic view of the Hin Thoepr Rocks and Mekong River. At the mountain foot, tourists can enjoy a beautiful waterfall, forest, and wildlife. The cliff is named Pha Manao after lots of wild lime tree growing in the area.

Tham Fa Mue Daeng (ถ้ำฝ่ามือแดง) The cave houses pre-historical paintings which archaeologists assumed are probably over 3,000 years old. This attraction is situated close to the park's safeguard unit of Phu Pha Thoepr 1

(Huai Sing), some 1.8 kilometres from the park's headquarters.

The National Park office is situated at Mu 5, Ban Khon Sai, Tambon Na Si Nuan, Amphoe Mueang, Mukdahan Province, 49000. A tourist service centre, bungalows, camping area, camping equipment, restrooms, and cooperative store are all provided here for visitors.

The entrance fee is 200 Baht for adults; 100 Baht for children. For more information, contact Tel. 0 4531 1677 Ext. 701, or contact the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation in Bangkok Tel. 0 2562 0760, or visit website: www.dnp.go.th.

To get there: From Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan, take Highway No. 2034 (Mukdahan-Don Tan) for around 13 kilometres. Then, turn right and follow the route for 2 kilometres until reaching the Phu Pha Thoepr National Park.

Amphoe Wan Yai

Kaeng Kabao (แก่งกะเบา)

a cataract in the middle of the Mekong River, is located in Tambon Pong Kham. During the dry season from January-May, when the level of the water reduces, the cataract is visible with a sandbar by the river on which visitors can stroll around. Besides that, tourists are allowed to walk on a long rock islet as well.

On the riverbank, the Phaya Si Phuchong Mukda Nakkharat Naga statue is situated in the middle of a small park. Beside the Naga statue, there is a huge rocky area, which is a relaxing place to enjoy the scenery of the Mekong River. The well-known local dish is “Kaeng Kabao roasted suckling pig”, which is served in restaurants on the Mekong riverbank.



Kaeng Kabao



Phaya Si Phuchong Mukda Nakkharat Naga Statue

To get there: From Amphoe Wan Yai, follow Rural Highway No Pho 3015 (a road skirting the Mekong River), in the direction heading to Nakhon Phanom province, for about 9 kilometres. The entrance of Kaeng Kabao will be seen on the right side.

Hat Mano Phirom (หาดมโนภิรมย์),

situated in Ban Chanot, Tambon Chanot, 15 kilometres far from Kaeng Kabao, is a sandbar by the Mekong River that emerges only during the dry season from March-May. Visitors can walk the sandbar or even play in the water. On the sandbar, there are restaurants and food stalls looking like riverside rafts. During the Songkran Festival, a joyful “Songkran Festival at Hat Mano

Phirom” is held. From here, the Second Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge can also be seen.

To get there: From Amphoe Wan Yai, follow Rural Highway No Pho 3015 (a road skirting the Mekong River), in the direction heading to Mukdahan province, for approximately 7 kilometres. Then, turn left onto a soi close to the Chanot Municipality Office and go straight for another 500 metres until arriving at Hat Mano Phirom.

Wat Manophirom (วัดมโนภิรมย์)

Located on the bank of the Mekong River, the ancient temple was built by artisans from Vientiane. In 1904, a fire broke out and severely



Wat Manophirom

damaged the temple. The renovation was completed by 1911. The temple has interesting architecture such as a Vihara or Wihan in the Lan Xang style adorned with a stucco gate and wooden bas-relief gable. The temple houses statues of eight Buddhas carved from black ivory and Phra-ong Saen, a sacred Buddha image of Mukdahan.

Wat Ban Song Khon or Our Lady of the Martyrs of Thailand Shrine (วัดบ้านสองคอน - วัดศาสนาคริสต์ โรมันคาทอลิก) The huge Roman Catholic Church in a modern architectural style is. The church won the Architectural Design Award 1996 from the Association of Siamese Architects under Royal Patronage.

The church was built in commemoration of the seven martyrs who sacrificed their lives to proclaim their belief in God during the Franco-Thai dispute in World War II. Celebrations are held twice annually on 22 October and 16 December.

Wat Ban Song Khon is open for a visit and worship 2 rounds a day for free: 9.00 a.m.-noon, and 1.00 p.m.-5.00 p.m. Visitors are required to behave and dress properly. Devotees are able to join the celebration of Mass on Sundays at 7.00 a.m.

To get there: From Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan, take Highway No. 212, in the direction heading to Nakhon Phanom province, for about



Wat Ban Song Khon or Our Lady of the Martyrs of Thailand Shrine

21 kilometres. Then, make a right turn at Ban Song Khon and follow Rural Highway No Pho 3015 until reaching Kilometre 20, to reach Wat Song Khon, which is 6 kilometres from Amphoe Wan Yai and 23 kilometres from Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan.

Wat Phra Si Mahapho (วัดพระศรีมหาโพธิ์)

Located in Ban Wan Yai, Tambon Wan Yai, the temple is unique with ancient architecture. The old "Sim" or Ubosot was built since 1916 in the folk northeastern style with beautifully carved wooden brackets supporting the roof. The murals inside feature the Vessantara Jataka and depict Prince Damrong Rajanubhab riding a cart when he made an inspection trip in

Isan. There is also a 2-storey building of French architecture used as the monk's residence.

To get there: From Amphoe Wan Yai, take Rural Highway No Pho 3015 (a road skirting the Mekong River) for about 2 kilometres, in the direction heading to Mukdahan province. Then, turn left to Ban Wan Yai and continue ahead for about 1 kilometre. Wat Phra Si Mahapho will be seen.

Amphoe Dong Luang

Namtok Kaeng Pho (น้ำตกแก่งโพธิ์),

located in Mu 8, Ban Na Hin Kong, in Tambon Kok Tum, is a beautiful waterfall that has water



Wat Phra Si Mahapho

all-year round. The area is covered with shade from the surrounding trees, where overnight camping is allowed. A 2-kilometre-long nature trail is also provided.

To get there: From Amphoe Dong Luang, follow Highway No. 2287 (Dong Luang-Sakon Nakhon) until arriving at Tambon Phang Daeng, and then turn left to Rural Highway Mo Ho 4012. This route will pass the Huaytaper School and Ban Kaeng Nang, respectively. The road leading to Namtok Kaeng Pho will be on the right side. Follow this way until reaching the waterfall. The total distance from Amphoe Dong Luang is approximately 60 kilometres.

Huai Chanot Reservoir (อ่างเก็บน้ำห้วยชะโนด), located in the west of Ban Nong Nao, Tambon Nong Bua, was built in 1979 as an earthen dam to block Huai Chanot that originates from the Phu Phan Mountains. This is a reservoir for people living in Amphoe Dong Luang. Being surrounded with a splendid landscape makes Huai Chanot Reservoir a good place for relaxation.

To get there: From Amphoe Dong Luang, follow Highway No. 2287 (Dong Luang– Mukdahan) until arriving at Ban Nong Nao. Then, turn right into the road through the village. The total distance from Amphoe Dong Luang is around 11 kilometres.



Wat Phutthaisawan

Amphoe Kham Cha-i **Wat Pa Wiwek Watthanaram or Wat** **Luangpu Cham** (วัดป่าวิเวกวัฒนาราม หรือ วัดหลวงปู่จาม).

is situated in Ban Huai Sai, Tambon Kham Cha-i, on the roadside of Highway No. 2042 (Mukdahan–Kalasin). Luangpu Cham Mahapunya was one of the Master Monks who had a full rigour of the Buddhist Monk's Discipline. He also strictly practiced Vipassana meditation, as well as the Buddha's Eight-fold Path. This Master Monk passed away on 19 January, 2013, at the age of 104 years old. The autobiography and teachings of Luangpu Cham are displayed in the exhibition sections surrounded by a shady atmosphere.

The distinctive construction of this temple is a 5-pinnacle Chedi Bu Thong Kitti, with a 13-metre-wide and 13-metre-high base and a height of 45 metres from base to the top. Applied art was used to construct this Chedi in

1987 to enshrine the relics of the Buddha and his disciples who are Arhats (a monk who has gained insight into the true nature of existence and has achieved Nirvana); namely, Phra Siwali (Sivali), Phra Uppakhut (Upakut), and Phra Ongkhuliman (Angulimalaya). On Magha Puja Day and Buddhist Lent Day of every year, a big Buddha bathing ceremony is organised.

To get there: From Amphoe Kham Cha-i, follow Highway No. 12 (Kham Cha-i - Somdet) until passing the Wat Luangpu Cham Mahapunya Banhuaisai Prasong School, which is located on the left side of the road, for about 1 kilometre. The entrance of Wat Pa Wiwek Watthanaram will be seen on the right side of the road. The total distance from Amphoe Kham Cha-i is around 7 kilometres.

Namtok Kham Cha-i (น้ำตกคำชะอี).

at Mobile Development Unit 24, in Ban Si Mongkhon, Mu 8, Tambon Kham Cha-i, is

a small, but beautiful waterfall, with water all-year round. Huai Khan Thae Yai that flows through stones and their recesses laying over one another has naturally created a 100-metre-long creek at Namtok Kham Cha-i. The shady atmosphere is suitable for relaxing, as well as playing in the water.

To get there: From Amphoe Kham Cha-i, take Highway No. 12 (Kham Cha-i - Somdet). Then, turn right to the Rural Highway across from the Chumchon Bankhamcha-i School and continue straight until reaching the destination. The total distance from Amphoe Kham Cha-i is around 12 kilometres.

Amphoe Nong Sung

Namtok Tat Ton (น้ำตกตาดโตน)

Situated at Ban Non Yang, the 7 metres high and 30 metres wide waterfall allows visitors to enjoy watery fun all year round with a pool for swimmers. The waterfall is among shady vegetation.

To get there: From Amphoe Nong Sung, follow Highway No. 12 (Mukdahan-Somdet). 200 metres before reaching the office of the Non Yang Sub district Administration Organisation, there is a road on the right side leading to Namtok Tat Ton. Follow this road for 2 kilometres, and then the destination will be found. The total distance from Amphoe Nong Sung is around 4.5 kilometres.

Ban Bung Homestay (บ้านบุ่งโฮมสเตย์), in Mu 5, Tambon Phu Wong, is a grouping of homestay accommodation, owned by the villagers. The distinguished characteristic of Ban Bung is that there is Huai Dong Bang flowing through it and most of the area is surrounded by mountains,

which contribute to a shady atmosphere and magnificent nature.

Local products are provided for visitors; such as, woven natural-dyed fabric, and bamboo basketry. Local dishes are available as well; namely, Kaeng Om Wai (young rattan soup with lemongrass and fermented fish sauce), Kaeng No Mai (bamboo shoot curry), Mok Het (steamed mushrooms with curry paste), Khai Mot Daeng (ant eggs), Kaeng Phak Wan (savory soup with Phak Wan, a kind of local vegetable), etc. For the guests of the homestay accommodation, bicycles are also provided, so that they can easily travel around the village. For more information, contact Khun Thammarat, Tel. 09 2907 6908.

To get there: From Amphoe Nong Sung, follow Highway No. 2370, and then turn left into Rural Highway Mo Ho 3002. Go straight for 10 kilometres. Ban Bung Homestay will be found.

Ban Phu Cultural Village (หมู่บ้านวัฒนธรรมบ้านภู)

in Tambon Ban Pao, is surrounded by mountains and beautiful nature. It is a village of the Phu Thai minority who can still admirably conserve their own customs, culture, as well as traditions. This place is open daily for visitors to visit and experience the way of life of the people living in this village.

Homestay accommodation is provided and suitable for different amounts of visitors: a single tourist, a small group of friends or family, or even a large one like a study visit group. Interesting activities are also available; such as, giving alms to Buddhist monks in the morning, visiting a beautiful and old ordination hall housing a stucco Buddha statue in the Lan



Ban Phu Cultural Village

Xang style of art that is revered by the locals, and learning how to weave cotton fabric by hand. The hand-woven cotton fabric of this village is the local product that is made with high quality.

Moreover, there is a demonstration of original rice farming and harvesting methods that visitors can also try on their own. More interesting activities like woodcarving and bamboo weaving are waiting to be observed as well. Last but not least, children guides from the village are available to lead and introduce nearby natural attractions to tourists.

Tourists who would like to stay overnight at the village's homestay accommodation, do the interesting mentioned activities, or organise any study visits are required to contact the homestay group leader in advance at Tel. 08 7230 1599 (Achan Tawan), or 08 1047 4218 for further information.

To get there: From Amphoe Nong Sung, take Highway No. 2370 for about 7 kilometres until reaching Ban Phu.

Ban Pao Homestay (บ้านป่าโฮมสเตย์), situated between Phu Pha Khao Mountain and

Phu Pha Daeng Mountain, in Tambon Ban Pao, is a village of Phu Thai people. Their ancestors emigrated from Mueang Vang, a town in Savannakhet province of Lao PDR. The villagers here can well apply the philosophy of the Sufficiency Economy into their lifestyle, which is an outstanding feature of the village.

Here is the place where tourists can experience and learn about the culture and way of life of the Phu Thai people. This place also offers tourists knowledge of how to farm, make bio-compost, and make crafts; such as, hand towel doll, woven fabrics, and woven plastic basketry. Temples and nearby interesting attractions are waiting to be visited: Tham Phu Pha Khao, Namtok Tat Ton, Wat Banphot Khiri, and Chedi Chai Mongkhon.

For tourists who would like to stay overnight in a homestay accommodation, arrange a study tour, or do activities with the villagers, please contact the Ban Pao Homestay group leader, Khun Dondej Klangprapan, Tel. 08 9419 1861, or Samwai Centre at Ban Pao, Tel. 0 4264 1571.

To get there: From Amphoe Nong Sung to Ban Pao, follow Highway No. 2370 for 7 kilometres.



Wat Phu Ko Cho or Wat Banphot Khiri

Wat Phu Ko Cho or Wat Banphot Khiri

(วัดภูเก้าจอ หรือ วัดบรรพตคีรี)

The mountaintop temple was once accommodation for Luangpu La Khemapatto, a famous

monk in Vipassana meditation of Mukdahan. A bell-shape pagoda known as Khemapattachedi was built to house his ashes, with his life-like statue placed on the top floor of the building underneath the pagoda.



Huai Khilek Irrigation Reservoir

To get there: From Amphoe Nong Sung, take Highway No. 2370 until reaching the intersection where Nong Sung Tai Provincial Police Station is located. Then, turn right and continue on for a further 2 kilometres. The total distance from Amphoe Nong Sung is around 21 kilometres.

Amphoe Nikhom Kham Soi

Huai Khilek Irrigation Reservoir (อ่างเก็บน้ำห้วยขี้เหล็ก)

Situated on Highway 212 (Mukdahan - Loeng Nok Tha) before arriving at Phu Mu Forest Park. The large reservoir with a picturesque view is a major attraction of Mukdahan.

To get there: From Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan, take Highway No. 212 (Mukdahan – Loeng Nok Tha). 1 kilometre before reaching Amphoe Nikhom Kham Soi, turn left into a soi in front of the office of the Nikhom Kham Soi Sub district Administration Organisation, and then go straight for 2 kilometres. The total distance from Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan is around 30 kilometres.

Dong Bang-i Forest Park (วนอุทยานดงบังอี), covering an area of 2.08 square kilometres, is located in Dong Bang-i National Reserved Forest, in Tambon Na Kok. The topography of this forest park is rocky mountain, with an

elevation of 400-500 metres above sea level. The place is covered with mixed deciduous forest and hill evergreen forests. Here is also the water source of Huai Dong Bang-i. At the viewpoint of the Dong Bang-i Forest Park, panoramic views, as well as Huai Khilek Irrigation Reservoir can be seen.

A camping area and restrooms are available for tourists. Permission to enter Dong Bang-i Forest Park has to be received from the officers. For more information, contact Tel. 0 4261 1757.

To get there: Take the same route as the Huai Khilek Irrigation Reservoir. After arriving at the

Reservoir, continue ahead for 1.5 kilometres. The total distance from Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan is approximately 32 kilometres.

Phu Mu (Phu Sa Dok Bua National Park)

(ภูมู (อุทยานแห่งชาติภูสระดอกบัว)), situated in Tambon Nikhom Kham Soi, which is 9 kilometres away from Amphoe Nikhom Kham Soi, is a mountain at an elevation of 353 metres above sea level. It has a plain that is nearly 4 square kilometres in size. The name of this place derived from the fact that in the past, a lot of wild boars or Mu Pa used to be found here. Phu Mu was once an American military base in the



Pha Rabiang Tawan



Pha Phop Rak

era of the Vietnam War. This mountain has a steep cliff with three viewpoints along the way to the mountaintop as follows.

Pha Rabiang Tawan, located in the east and close to the Ranger Station Office, is the spot to see the sunrise. At this viewpoint, Phu Phaeng Ma, Huai Khilek Irrigation Reservoir, and mountains within the Dong Bang-i Forest Park can be seen.

Pha Phop Rak, situated in the west, is 200 metres from the Ranger Station Office, where visitors can enjoy a sunset view. At this viewpoint, Phu Dan Tae and the Phu Phan Range can be seen.

Pha Hin Sa-ngop is located in the southern peak, which is 2 kilometres from the Ranger Station Office. At this viewpoint, Phu Tham Phra and Amphoe Loeng Nok Tha of Yasothon province can be seen.

At Pha Rabiang Tawan and Pha Phop Rak, after getting permission from the rangers, visitors can camp overnight. Close to the Ranger Station Office, restrooms are provided. A 3-kilometre-long nature trail is available here as well. For more information, contact Tel. 09 9028 8818.

To get there: From Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan, take Highway No. 212 (Mukdahan-Loeng Nok Tha). After passing Amphoe Nikhom Kham



Wat Phu Dan Tae or Wat Phuttho Thammatharo

Soi for around 2 kilometres and reaching Ban Muang Khai, turn left into Rural Highway No. Mo Ho 3029. Continue ahead until arriving at the T-junction, and then turn left. Go straight up the hill for 4.5 kilometres. The destination will be seen. The total distance from Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan is about 38 kilometres.

Wat Phu Dan Tae or Wat Phuttho Thammatharo (วัดภูด่านเต๋ หรือ วัดพุทธโธธัมมะธาร)

Located at Ban Chai Mongkhon, Tambon Chok Chai, the temple houses a huge Buddha image with a Dhammacakka - Wheel of the Doctrine - at the back, which can be noticed from a distance. Around the temple is a rock area.

It is a favourite place for Buddhists to make pilgrimage and enjoy the beautiful ambience.

To get there: From Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan, follow Highway No. 212 (Mukdahan-Loeng Nok Tha). After passing Amphoe Nikhom Kham Soi for 6 kilometres, the temple will be found on the right side. A U-turn has to be made before reaching the destination. The total distance from Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan is approximately 34 kilometres.

Amphoe Don Tan

Bronze Drum (กลองมโหระทึก)

Kept at Wat Matchimawat (Wat Klang) close to

Don Tan District Office, the one-sided bronze kettledrum is 86 centimetres in diameter and 90 centimetres long. The drum face's features a relief of the sun with 14 rays in the centre and 4 frogs at 4 directional points around the edge. The drum, which is probably more than 3,000 years old, is a collection item for the Kha and Khmer. It was first found in 1938 at the eroded bank of the Mekong River at Ban Na Tham. It was previously kept at Wat Woen Chai Mongkhon, and now at the drum tower of Wat Matchimawat.

Somdet Ya Park (Woraphat Military Base) (สวนสมเด็จพระย่า (ฐานปฏิบัติการรวพัฒนา)).

situated in Mu 6, Ban Na Muang, is a significant historical place as it was a military base from 1977 to 1983, when there were radical conflicts between the government and the Communist Party. Nowadays, it is known as a historical memorial and tourist attraction. This place is also a vocational training centre for the locals.

Within the base, there is a Royal Pavilion and Statue of Somdet Phra Srinagarindra Boromarajonani, the late Princess Mother. On 5-7 June 1977, the late Princess Mother, together with the late King Rama IX's elder sister, Princess Galyani Vadhana, visited and stayed here to see civil servants, soldiers, and local people and give them morale and encouragement. This place is the only military base that 2 members of the Royal Family used to stay. Within the Somdet Ya Park, there is a historic building, and military bunkers, where tourists can visit and learn something. This place is open every day from 8.00 a.m.–6.00 p.m.

To get there: From the intersection of the Don Tan Provincial Police Station to Somdet Ya Park, take Highway No. 2116 for 5 kilometres.

Phu Sa Dok Bua National Park (อุทยานแห่งชาติภูสอโศกบัว)

The park covers areas in three provinces including Amphoe Nikhom Kham Soi and Amphoe Don Tan of Mukdahan, Amphoe Loeng Nok Tha of Yasothon, and Amphoe Chanuman and Amphoe Senangkhanikhom of Amnat Charoen. Covering a total area of 321 square kilometres. Its lush forest has various types of natural beauty such as picturesque views from the mountaintop, amazing rocks, field of wild flowers in the late rainy season, and witness the mountaintop lotus which is called by the locals "mountain of lotus".

Overall, the park features a mountainous landscape whose ranges lie in the Northwest-Southeast direction at an average elevation between 350-450 metres above sea level. Phu Krasae is the highest peak at an elevation of 491 metres. The ranges are the origination of many streams such as Huai Thom and Huai Kan Lueang that nourish the plain around the park area. The park comprises many kinds of lush forests and huge rock terraces called 'Dan' in local dialect.

Most areas are covered with mixed deciduous forest and dry evergreen forest, which are home to precious trees like Makha Mong (Afzelia xylocarpa Craib), monkey flower tree, blackwood, and rosewood. In the jungle, particularly the large jungle at Phu Sa Dok Bua where there are water sources, various species of wildlife can be found such as barking deer, boar, hare, monkey, colugo, porcupine, and mouse deer, as well as birds like pheasant and red junglefowl. The park is beautified by scenery and rock formation. Moreover, the political conflicts in the past also add more interest and potential to the park.

Attractions in the park include:

Phu Pha Taem The cliff houses 98 paintings of hands and symbols from the pre-historical period which may be created in the same era as Tham Fa Mue Daeng in Pha Taem National Park, Amphoe Khong Chiam, Ubon Ratchathani province. The cliff actually looks like a cave with a 60-metre-long sliding rock. The paintings are some 3-5 metres high from the ground. It requires 2 hours to visit all.

Pha Makluea Situated close to Phu Pha Taem, the rock terrace under the tree's shade and cliff offers a scenic viewpoint and rest area.

Flower Field on Phu Wat By the late rainy season, the vast rock terrace is beautified by various kinds of flowers such as En A, Kradum Ngoen, and Dusita. In the past, this area was used for religious rites.

Phu Pha Hom At an elevation of 366 metres above sea level, the picturesque viewpoint of Phu Pha Taem Range offers a panoramic view to the west. Turning around, tourists will see numerous mountains such as Phu Mu, Phu Phaeng Ma, Phu Mai Sang, Phu Song, and Phu Akkharachat. It is a popular site for a sunset view and camping ground. Trekking to the site takes 2.5 hours.





Tour of Mukdahan-Savannakhet

Phu Sa Dok Bua The 423-metre-high mountain is situated on the border of three provinces. At its crest, there are 11 rock pools which are a few metres wide and never dry up. All pools are fascinating as they have lots of lotus of a small size. According to the locals, these lotuses have grown wild there since a long time ago. Thus, the mountain is called Phu Sa Dok Bua, literally meaning the mountain of lotus pools. Tourists will have to trek for one day to get there.

Phu Pha Taek Called by the military as “Hill 428”, the beautiful hill offers a picturesque view of the ranges in the Mukdahan National Park in the northern side.

Rock Terraces and Dwarf Deciduous Dipterocarp Forests The rock terraces, at the sizes of 20 up to 40 rai area, can be found easily. The dwarf deciduous dipterocarp forests, which can be found with grassland, are scattered around at Phu Pha Hom, at the back of Phu Pha Daeng, Phu Bok, Phu Sa Dok Bua, Phu Hua Nak, etc.

The headquarters of Phu Sa Dok Bua National Park is located in Ban Nong Mek, Tambon Pa Rai, Amphoe Don Tan, Mukdahan Province 49120. The entrance fee is 200 Baht for adults; 100 Baht for children. A tourist service centre, accommodation, camping area, and restrooms are provided here. For more information, contact Tel. 0 4261 9077, 0 4267 6742, 08 9032 5369, or visit website: www.dnp.go.th.

To get there: From Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan, take Highway No. 2034 (Mukdahan – Don Tan), and then turn right into Rural Highway No. Mo Ho 4007. Continue ahead until reaching a T-junction. After that, turn right into Highway No. 2116 until arriving at Kilometre 169. Make a final turn right into the Phu Sa Dok Bua National Park Office. The total distance from Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan is 44 kilometres.

MAJOR EVENTS

Mukdahan Red Cross Fair (งานกาชาดจังหวัดมุกดาหาร) is held annually in January in front of the city hall, the fair includes exhibitions, outlets of state departments, as well as local products.

Chinese New Year Festival of 4 Countries and 4 Cultures (งานเทศกาลตรุษจีน 4 แผ่นดิน 4 วัฒนธรรม) is annually organised on the Mekong Riverbank, in front of the Indochina Market of Mukdahan Municipality. In this festival, there is an ancestors worship ceremony to bring good

luck in the new year, Indochina food festival, lion dance show, 4 cultures of 4 countries procession, and arts and cultural shows of Thailand, Lao PDR., Vietnam, and China.

Tour of Mukdahan-Savannakhet (กิจกรรมปั่น 2 ล้อ 2 น่อง ท่อง 2 แผ่นดิน) is held in February of every year to enhance the cooperation and build a good relationship between Thailand and Lao PDR. The starting point is the Golden Jubilee Celebration Public Park, in Mukdahan province. The biking route passes the Second Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge and leads to Kay-sone Phomvihane of Savannakhet province.

Mukdahan-Indochina (Thailand-Lao PDR.-Vietnam) Songkran Festival (งานสงกรานต์สองฝั่งโขง สามแผ่นดิน) is arranged during the Songkran Festival (12-16 April) of every year at the Golden Jubilee Celebration Public Park (Nong Na Bueng), in Mukdahan Municipality. Interesting activities are held as follows: Songkran procession, floral floats procession of 3 countries (Thailand, Lao PDR., and Vietnam), offerings procession ceremony, giving alms to Buddhist monks, pouring water on the hands of revered elders and asking for a blessing, Indochina Beauty Contest, and Songkran Children Beauty Contest. The Thai-Indochina Food Fair is also provided here for visitors to enjoy.

Kaeng Kabao Travel Festival (เทศกาลเที่ยวแก่งกะเบา) is organised during April–May of every year. Within the festival, there are activities provided; such as, relaxing with the fresh air on the Mekong Riverside, and tasting roasted suckling pig. Shops are also available at this festival.

Traditional Boat Races Mukdahan-Savannakhet (Ti Chang Nam Nong)

(ประเพณีการแข่งขันเรือออกพรรษา มุกดาหาร — สะหวันนะเขต (ตี่ชางน่านอง)) Boat Races or Suang Huea of Mukdahan province is a tradition that has been inherited for a long time. It is annually organised during the End of Buddhist Lent period, the 13th-fullmoon days of the 11th lunar month (October), on the Mekong Riverside, on Samran Chai Khong Road, in front of the Indochina Market. Every year, there are a lot of boats and competitors participating in this event, which definitely includes those from Savannakhet province of Lao PDR.

Dusita Flower Blooming Festival at Phu Pha Thoep National Park (เทศกาลชมดอกดุสิตาบนบนลานหิน อุทยานแห่งชาติภูผาเทิบ)

Different kinds of flowers will seasonally bloom, which makes Phu Pha Thoep a more beautiful place, especially during October–December of every year. At the area named Lan Mutchalin, several species of wild flowers bloom and are awaiting to be seen; namely, Dusita (*Utricularia delphinoides*), Bladderwort (*Utricularia bifida*), ManiThewa (*Eriocaulon smitinandii* Moldenke), Sundew (*Drosera burmannii* Vahl), Nao Duean Ha (*Myxopyrum smilacifolium* Blume subsp.), etc.

Pan Fai Sai Bun Chunla Kathin Ceremony

(งานปั่นฝ้ายสายบุญจุลกริน) Chunla Kathin is a ceremony that has to be urgently done with the unity of a lot of believers to get hand-woven monk's tripe robes done within one day. It begins with a female re nunciating ordination ceremony, collecting cotton flowers, processing cotton flowers in different ways; for example,



Dusia Flower Blooming Festival at Phu Pha Thoep National Park

spinning or making cotton yarn, fluffing cotton, strengthening cotton yarn by soaking it into boiled rice water, and then offer it to monks to lay down the piece of cloth on the wooden frame to make robes by themselves. All processes have to be completely done within one day, from the morning, when the ceremony takes place, to the dawn of the next day.

This ceremony is scheduled to be held annually during the Kathin Ceremony period (one month after the End of Buddhist Lent day) in 4 districts: Amphoe Don Tan at Wat Matchimawat (Wat Klang), Amphoe Nong Sung at Wat Si Nantharamin Ban Phu, Amphoe

Mueang Mukdahan at Wat Pho Si Kaeo in Ban Na Sok, and Amphoe Kham Cha-i at Wat Pa Khamphiro Anusonin Ban Nong Kapat.

Loi Krathong Festival on the Mekong Riverbank of Mukdahan (งานสืบสานประเพณี

ลอยกระทงริมฝั่งโขงมุกดาหาร) is organised on Loi Krathong Day at the embankment on the Mekong Riverside, in front of the Indochina Market of Mukdahan Municipality. An eye-catching illuminated giant Krathong is shown in the event. There are many interesting activities as well, listed as follows: Giant and normal-sized Krathong Contest, Nang Nopphamat Beauty

Contest, retro Ram Wong (traditional Thai folk dance in a circle), and musical and cultural performances.

LOCAL PRODUCTS

Native style woven fabric (ผ้าทอพื้นเมือง):

Silk, hand-woven cotton fabrics, and Khit-patterned fabrics are mostly dyed with natural colours, which visitors can buy from the sources of production; such as, Ban Phu and Ban Bung in Amphoe Nong Sung, etc. Each local person weaves fabric with their hand looms at home, and then unites together to open a local product shop, where their products are sold, as well as provides homestay accommodation for visitors. Local woven fabrics are also available in native

style clothing shops in the centre of Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan.

Plastic basketry (เครื่องจักสานจากเส้นพลาสติก):

is designed and made to be everyday items; namely, baskets, bags, boxes, etc. The main source of production is Amphoe Nikhom Kham Soi. However, it can be generally bought from souvenir shops; such as, those in the Indochina Market.

White pork sausage and instant Vietnamese rice noodles (หมูยอ เส้นกวยจั๊บ

ญวนที่สำเร็จรูป) are available in local product shops; namely, at the Vietnamese Communities 5-Junction, Indochina Market, and Night Market.



Native style woven fabric



Instant Vietnamese rice noodles

LOCAL FOOD

The popular local food of Mukdahan is Vietnamese style food; Khao Tom Sen or Khao Piak Sen (Vietnamese rice noodle soup), Paeng Chi or Baguette (Vietnamese sandwich), Bahn Coun (Vietnamese steamed rice rolls), Lueat Plaeng or Tiet canh (raw blood pudding), Vietnamese white pork sausage, scalded pig's intestine, Khanom Niao (chewy tapioca dumplings), Vietnamese rice cake filled with pork (Banh Chung), yellow sticky rice, etc.

The most popular place to buy Vietnamese style food in Mukdahan is Vietnamese Communities 5-Junction, which is located at the intersection between Thaiyanon Road, Phitak Santirat Road, and Soi Khang Mun Nithi. This is a community of Vietnamese, who emigrated from their country

because of war and immigrated to Thailand. Most restaurants serving this kind of food are open between 6.00 a.m.-2.00 p.m. Vietnamese food is also available everyday at the Night Market from 4.00 p.m.-9.00 p.m.

SUGGESTED ITINERARY (3 days 2 night)

Day 1 (Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan - Amphoe Wan Yai - Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan)

- (Morning)*
- Wat Si Mongkhon Tai
 - Kaeng Kabao
 - Wat Ban Song Khon or Our Lady of the Martyrs of Thailand Shrine
- (Afternoon)*
- Ho Kao Mukdahan
 - Wat Roi Phra Phutthabhat

- Phu Manorum
- Talat Ratri or Night Market

Day 2 (Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan - Amphoe Nikhom Kham Soi - Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan)

- (Morning)*
- Vietnamese Communities
 - 5-Junction
 - Phu Mu (Phu Sa Dok Bua National Park)
 - Huai Khilek Irrigation Reservoir

- (Afternoon)*
- Wat Phu Dan Tae or Wat Phuttho Thammatharo
 - Phu Pha Thoep National Park
 - Viewpoint at the Second Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge

Day 3 (Amphoe Mueang Mukdahan)

- (Morning)*
- Indochina Market
- (Afternoon)*
- Alternatively, continue to other connecting routes; such as, Nakhon Phanom, Kalasin, Yasothon.



Vietnamese style food



ไป บ้านนาโปนอย

To Ban Na Po Noi

ไป อ.ธาตุพนม

To Amphoe That Phanom

ไป อ.คำชะอี

To Amphoe Khamcha-i

ไป อ.เลิงนกทา

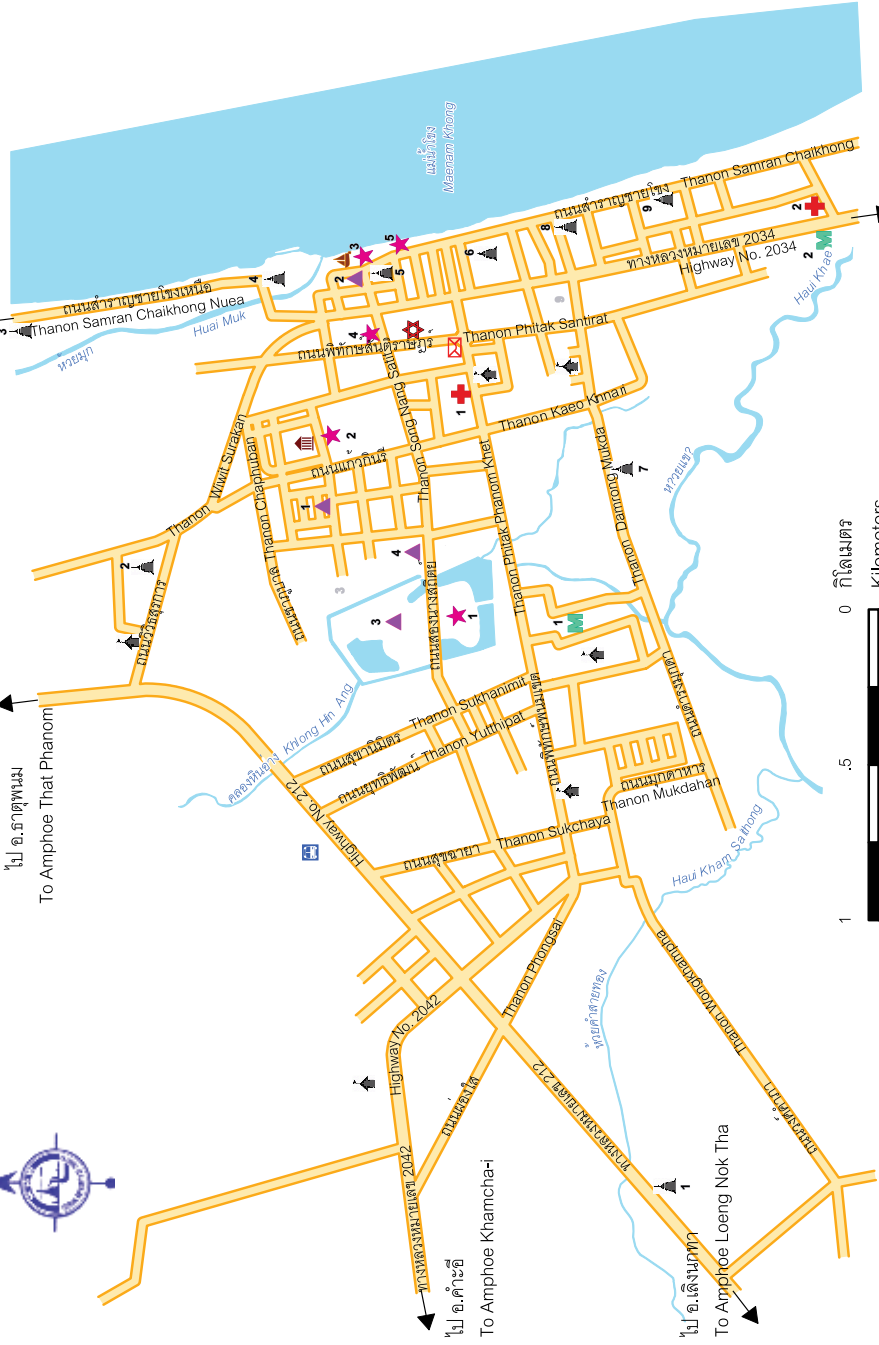
To Amphoe Loeng Nok Tha

ไป อ.ดอนตาล

To Amphoe Don Tan

0 กิโลเมตร











Kilometers



แผนที่ตัวเมืองมุกดาหาร

MUKDAHAN CITY MAP

สัญลักษณ์ Legend

	ศาลากลางจังหวัด		สถานีตำรวจ		แหล่งน้ำ, แม่น้ำ		Stream, River
	โรงเรียน		ไปรษณีย์		Post Office		
	สถานีขนส่ง		Bus Terminal		Road		



วัด Temple (Wat)

- วัดคำสายทอง Wat Kham Sai Thong
- วัดอรุณรังษีนิลวันนาท
- Wat Arun Rangsi Moli Wanawat
- วัดนักบุญเปโตร Wat Nak Bun Peto
- วัดศรีมงคลเหนือ Wat Si Mongkhon Nuea
- วัดศรีมงคลใต้ Wat Si Mongkhon Tai
- วัดยอดแก้วศรีวิชัย Wat Yot Kao Si Wichai
- วัดป่าเค็ดวิเวก Wat Pa Sila Wiwek
- วัดศรีสุเมงคัวนาราม Wat Sisumang Wanaram
- วัดศรีบุญเรือง Wat Si Bun Rueang



โรงพยาบาล Hospital

- โรงพยาบาลมุกดาหาร Mukdahan Hospital
- โรงพยาบาลมุกดาหารอินเตอร์ Mukdahan Inter Hospital

ตลาด Market

- ตลาดสดเทศบาล Thetsaban Market
- ตลาดพรเพชร Phonphet Market

สถานที่สำคัญ Place of Interest

- ศาลจังหวัดมุกดาหาร Mukdahan Law Court
- ที่ทำการด่านตรวจคนเข้าเมืองจังหวัดมุกดาหาร Mukdahan Immigration Border Pass Office
- สนามกีฬากลางมุกดาหาร Mukdahan Stadium
- สำนักงานเทศบาลเมืองมุกดาหาร Mukdahan Municipal Office

★ สถานที่ท่องเที่ยว Tourist Attraction








- สวนสาธารณะเฉลิมพระเกียรติกาญจนาภิเษก Chaloeem Phrakiat Kanchanaphisek Park
- ศาลหลักเมืองจังหวัดมุกดาหาร City Pillar Shrine
- ศาลเจ้าแม่สองนางพี่น้อง Chaomae Song Nang Phi Nong Shrine
- ศาลเจ้าพ่อเจ้าฟ้ามุงเมือง Chaopho Chaofa Mung Mueang Shrine
- ตลาดอินโดจีน Indochina Market

แผนที่ท่องเที่ยวจังหวัดมุกดาหาร MUKDAHAN TOURIST MAP

สถานที่ท่องเที่ยว Tourist Attraction

- 1 แก่งกะเบา Kaeng Kabao
- 2 น้ำตกตาดโตน Namtok Tat Ton
- 3 วัดศรีมงคลใต้ Wat Si Mongkhon Tai
- 4 หอแก้วมุกดาหารเฉลิมพระเกียรติกาญจนาภิเษก
Ho Kaew Mukdahan Chalobem Phra Kiat Kanchanaphisek
- 5 อุทยานแห่งชาติภูผาเทิบ Phu Pha Thoep National Park
- 6 วัดพุทธโฆสิมมะระโร (วัดภูด่านแต่้)
Wat Phuttho Thammatharo (Wat Phu Dan Tae)
- 7 อ่างเก็บน้ำชลประทานห้วยขี้เหล็ก
Huai Khilek Irrigation Reservoir
- 8 ภูมู่ (อุทยานแห่งชาติภูสระดอกบัว)
Phu Mu (Phu Sa Dok Bua National Park)
- 9 อุทยานแห่งชาติภูสระดอกบัว Phu Sa Dok Bua National Park
- 10 สะพานมิตรภาพไทย-ลาว แห่งที่ 2
The Second Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge

สัญลักษณ์ Legend

- | | | |
|---|-------------------|------------------------|
|  | อำเภอ | Amphoe (District) |
|  | สถานที่ท่องเที่ยว | Tourist Attraction |
|  | แหล่งน้ำ, แม่น้ำ | Stream, River |
|  | ทางหลวง | Highway |
|  | เส้นขอบเขตประเทศ | International Boundary |
|  | เส้นขอบเขตจังหวัด | Province Boundary |
|  | เส้นขอบเขตอำเภอ | District Boundary |

USEFUL CALLS

Provincial Public Relations

Tel. 0 4263 2379

Provincial Police Station

Tel. 191, 0 4261 1455

Mueang Mukdahan Police Station

Tel. 0 4261 1333

Mukdahan Hospital

Tel. 1669, 0 4261 1285, 0 4261 1379

Mukdahan International Hospital

Tel. 0 4261 1222, 0 4261 2431 - 5

Dong Luang Hospital

Tel. 08 1999 7429

KhamCha-I Hospital

Tel. 0 4269 1085

Nong Sung Hospital

Tel. 0 4267 4614 - 6

Nikhom Kham Soi Hospital

Tel. 0 4268 1324 - 5

Don Tan Hospital

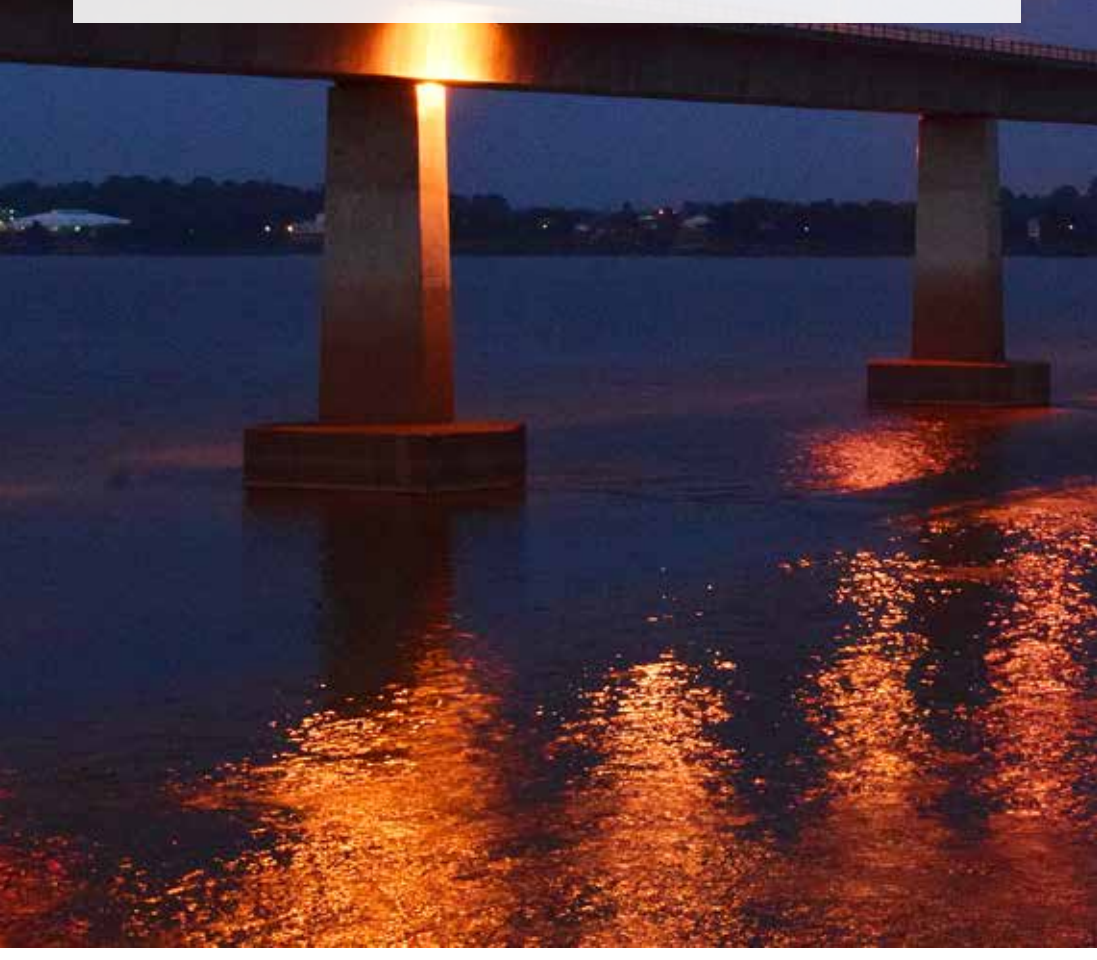
Tel. 0 4268 9085

Highway Police

Tel. 1193

Tourist Police

Tel. 1155



TOURIST INFORMATION CENTERS

TOURISM AUTHORITY OF THAILAND

1600 Petchaburi Road, Makkasan

Ratchathewi, Bangkok 10400

Tel. 1672

Fax 0 2253 7440

Website: www.tourismthailand.org

E-mail: info@tat.or.th

Open daily 8.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND SPORTS

Tourist Information Center, 1st floor

4 Ratchadamnoen Nok Road, Bangkok 10100

Tel. 0 2283 1556

Open daily 8.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

SUVARNABHUMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Passenger Terminal, 2nd floor, Exit 3

Tel. 0 2134 0040

Open daily 24 hours.

TOURISM AUTHORITY OF THAILAND, NAKHON PHANOM OFFICE

184/1 Sunthornvichit Road, Tambon Nai Mueang,

Amphoe Mueang, Nakhon Phanom 48000

Tel. 0 4251 3490-1

Fax: 0 4251 3492

E-mail: tatphnom@tat.or.th

Area of Responsibility: Nakhon Phanom, Mukdahan, Sakon Nakhon

Open daily 8.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.



Phu Pha Thoep National Park



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